



NORDLYSET NEWS



President's Letter (Mike Palecek)

One hundred years ago, the United States entered World War I. Inventions like the hamburger bun, the supermarket, and toggle light switches were just coming onto the market. Few Americans had automobiles, no one had radios or televisions. Many Scandinavian-Americans still spoke their native tongue in their homes and with their friends.

Racine formed a Sons of Norway lodge in 1917, naming it Nordlyset (Northern Lights). The first mention of a Racine lodge for the Sons of Norway was in the July 28, 1917 issue of the Racine Journal-News. That paper reported that "Norwegians will celebrate the 70th anniversary of the issuance of the first Norwegian newspaper printed on the western continent and that a number of prominent Racine Norwegians will attend the festivities in Muskego and that . . . at a meeting of Nordlyset lodge 153, at Winters' Hall, a delegation was elected to represent the organization at the press meeting at Muskego."

Winters' Hall was at 412 6th Street, west of the old Red Cross Drug Store at College and Sixth Street. There is a parking lot there now. Other fraternal organizations also met at Winters' Hall. Our lodge met on the second and fourth Fridays.

The first year, a November lodge meeting included a card social. The group enjoyed singing, a violin solo and a patriotic speech. At the lodge's Christmas party, "a mixed crowd of young and old passed an evening at Winters' Hall which will be long remembered. The youngsters enjoyed themselves, when hand in hand all marched around the Christmas tree, singing the old familiar Christmas songs."

By the next year, the lodge was involved in raising money for the Red Cross, helping Minnesota SON members who had lost their homes in fires, and fundraising to aid the Memorial Hall building project.

Although our world is much more technologically advanced now, we still have much common ground with those who started our lodge a century ago. We gather to enjoy one another's company, to celebrate our ancestral heritage and to work to help others in need and improve our community.

In our "100th year" let's work together to keep our lodge strong and relevant in our modern times.

Your friend in Sons of Norway,

Mike



Nordlyset 5-183
Sons of Norway Meetings
Racine Moose Lodge
Douglas Ave. & 4 1/2 Mile Rd.)
THIRD WEDNESDAY
of most months.
Meal and social time:
5:45 PM
Meeting: 6:30 PM

NATIONAL OFFICE
www.sofn.com
1-800-945-8851

MEMBERSHIP
fraternal@son.com



NEXT MEETINGS
January 18
February 15
March 15
(Moose Lodge)

Inside this issue:

President's Letter

Meeting & Christmas photos

Lodge calendar Jan-Aug

Member Recognitions

RTG play information

We need cookies!

NORDLYSET NEWS

HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM NORDLYSET



**RACINE'S
HOLIDAY
PARADE**



OUR ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY



**Our lodge has
its own
St. Nick!**



Our annual holiday celebration was held at Trefoil Oaks on December 3rd. Once again we had great attendance, delicious food, plenty of prizes for our raffle, Christmas music, a Santa Lucia procession, lots of photos in our designated area, and plenty of wonderful conversation. TAKK to all those who participated! Now we move on to wish you all a very happy, healthy 2017!

Meet Author, Sandy Brehl

Cheryl Miller and Mike Palecek paid a visit to Books & Company, a book store in Oconomowoc to meet author, Sandy Brehl. Sandy became interested in WWII events in Norway when she traveled there with a friend several years ago, and it was the beginning of a path that led her to write three books dealing with Norway's occupation by Germany in the early 1940's. Her research gave her material that added humor to these novels. For example, when the Norwegians were told they had to invite a soldier to their home for Christmas dinner, they complied; however, since food was severely rationed, there was little to feed them. Can you imagine lutefisk being served without cream or butter sauce?



Ole and Lena's 50th Wedding Anniversary and Vow Renewal at RTG

The event we have been waiting for, a visit to the Racine Theater Guild to see the very funny *Ole and Lena's 50th Wedding Anniversary and Vow Renewal*, is coming soon! Save March 18th for the play and time with many of our lodge members.

Jeri Smith is holding tickets and they **MUST** be paid for (\$18 for adults; \$16 for seniors; \$13 for students) at the January or February SON meeting. Pay in cash OR bring a *check* made out to the *Racine Theater Guild*. If you have not yet signed up, it's not too late since extra seats have been reserved. Want to know more about the play? Check out the RTG website or copy / paste this to find the precise page. <http://www.racinetheatre.org/production/ole-lenas-50th-wedding-anniversary-vow-renewal/>



BRAINSTORMING FOR 2017

Besides our delicious meatball dinner in November, we also enjoyed our time brainstorming ideas to improve our lodge in 2017. Since we are looking forward to celebrating our 100th anniversary in June, members contributed ideas for events that were both serious and "just plain fun." We also considered what we could do to improve our connections to new members, and popular ideas were to provide mentors and host small get togethers to get better acquainted. Additionally, we came up with ideas for upcoming cultural programs.

Now it's time to get beyond the "talking" stage and put our ideas into action. We hope you'll all participate in making 2017 a banner year for our lodge.





Lodge Meeting, 2nd Annual CHILI Cook-off Wed. January 18



Do you make a really delicious, blue-ribbon worthy chili? Whether it's tomato-based, white, vegetarian or turkey, we're looking for best chili in the Lodge. The top three cooks will win a prize, with the winner also getting a blue ribbon and bragging rights. If you want to enter your chili — REGISTER by Sunday, January 15th by contacting Diane Palecek, [REDACTED], [REDACTED].

Bring a crock pot with at least 8-10 one-cup servings of your chili to the Moose Lodge between 5:15 - 5:30 PM for judging. Provide an index card or note stating the type of chili (red, white, vegetarian, beef, etc.) Write your name on the back of the card.

You must register by Sunday, January 15 to enter the cook-off. The cost for the dinner will be the regular charge of \$4. If you are entering chili in the contest, your dinner and that of your significant other is free. Because this is a contest open to all Lodge Members who want to participate, we cooks will not be reimbursed for the cost of ingredients. **We need volunteers to bring corn muffins, crackers or a dessert. Please call Diane if you can help.** Following the dinner, we will enjoy a slide show of highlights of 2016 lodge activities.



Valentine Catered Dinner - Moose Lodge Wednesday, February 15, 2017

Social Time: 6:00 PM Dinner: 6:30 PM

Cost: Adults \$17 Children (9 and under) \$8

We will enjoy a catered buffet dinner including chicken, potatoes, salad and vegetables, as well as dessert, coffee, tea and soda. Alcoholic beverages will be available for purchase. Buy tickets for the 50/50 raffle, enjoy with a fun activity, enjoy the beautiful decorations and great conversation and more.

This takes the place of the regular lodge meeting. Children are welcome, but there will be no children's program. **Because this is a catered meal, you must register and pay by February 11 to attend.** A registration form is attached. Call Diane Palecek, [REDACTED] for more information.



UPDATE ON YOUTH TRIP TO NORWAY

Connie Aiello and Michaela Decker will be taking two youth to Norway this summer. We look forward to hearing about their two weeks of adventure in Norway.

We wish circumstances were different for more of our young people who had originally planned to participate, and we hope there will be an opportunity for them to visit at another time.



COOKIES !!!!!



We need ten people willing to bake one batch of cookies each to send with Michaela Decker, District 5 Sports Director, when she attends the Barnebirkie cross-country ski race for children February 19th in Hayward. Cookies must be without nuts. Please contact Michaela ([REDACTED]) if you are willing to help. Cookies can be dropped off at the February 15th lodge meeting, or at 1247 Center Street in Racine.



Sons of Norway Websites

—Nordlyset Lodge:

[http://
www.sonsofnorwayracine.com](http://www.sonsofnorwayracine.com)

—Sons of Norway District 5:

[http://www.sonsofnorway5.
com/content/](http://www.sonsofnorway5.com/content/)

—Sons of Norway International:

[http://www.sofn.com/home/
index.jsp](http://www.sofn.com/home/index.jsp)

NEW Book Club

The book club will meet on Sat., Jan. 28, at 10:00 am at The Grind coffee shop, 7300 Washington Ave. We are starting the non-fiction anthology "Hidden Heroes: World War II in Norway." In February, we will be reading "Odin's Promise" and will compare information from Hidden Heroes to Sandy Brehl's historical fiction novel. We have copies of the book for rental or purchase to book club members. If you want to join our book club, call Mike Palecek, 886-5547 for more details.

FAMILY HISTORY

What's in the 1900 Federal Census?

This census has great potential for helping you find older relatives. Here are some of the important records you'll see: names, addresses and relationship to head of household; race, sex and month and year of birth; age at last birthday, marital status and number of years married; total number of children born of the mother, number of children living and place of birth; year of immigration and the country of origin; and, citizenship status for those over age 21.

Each census has new categories, so you can learn quite a lot of new information about your family history through different years' census records.



Texas Hold 'Em

The next game of poker will be held sometime in January at a date and place to be determined. We'll let regular players know as soon as the decision is made. If you are interested in playing, contact Nick Baldukas, [REDACTED] or Mike Palecek, 886-5547.

MASSE MORO: District 5 Norwegian Heritage Camp



Masse Moro youth camp has been part of District 5 since 1979 and many youth from our lodge have attended this cultural immersion program. Kids learn the language, eat the food, listen to the music and celebrate many Norwegian traditions. This fantastic two-week camp experience is open to girls and boys ages 9-15. Cost is \$700, but children and grandchildren of established SON members can apply for \$150 in funds through our lodge, matched by \$150 from the district. Applications must be received on or before May 17th to qualify for matching funds. Camp this summer is July 16-29, and you can learn more at their website www.massemoro.org.

PRESIDENT	MIKE PALECEK	████	████████████████████
VICE PRESIDENT	MICHAELA DECKER	████	████████████████
SECRETARY	CONI AIELLO	██████	██████████████
TREASURER	SONIA GATZKE	████	██████████
TRUSTEES	HAPPY YOUNGS VICTOR MITMOEN ROSEMARY (BUDDY) THOMPSON	████ ████ ████	██████████ ██████████████ ██████████████
COMMUNITY OUT-REACH	MICHAELA DECKER	████	██████████████
COUNSELORS	OLA HIRTH NICHOLAS BALDUKAS	████ ████	██████████████ ██████████████████
CULTURAL PIN DIRECTOR	CONNIE AIELLO	██████	██████████
FOUNDATION DIRECTOR	ANN-MARI BALDUKAS	████	██████████████
GREETER	ROSEMARY THOMPSON	████	██████████
HISTORIAN	HEIDI KOMISTRA KRISTIN HAHNER	████ ████	██████████████ ██████████████
MARSHALL	DIANE PALECEK	████	██████████
MEMBERSHIP	VACANT		
NEWSLETTER EDITOR	CHERYL MILLER	████	██████████
PHOTOGRAPHER	CHERYL MILLER	████	██████████
PUBLICITY DIRECTOR	VACANT		
SPORTS DIRECTORS	RUTH WIELAND SHIRLEY HIRTH	████ ████	██████████ ██████████████
SUNSHINE	JUDY NIELSEN	████	██████████
WEBMASTER	MIKE PALECEK	████	██████████████████
YOUTH DIRECTOR	MICHAELA DECKER	████	██████████████



We hope you celebrate
all year long!

Nov / Dec. 2016

David Jenkins
Diane Tetrault
Margaret Klingenberg
Sandra Ericksen
Elise Pederson
Samantha Aiello
Janice Nielsen
Peggy Christiansen
Norman Monson
Layla Boehme
Eric Lenhart
Raymond Snodgrass
Arin Pederson
Shelly Hirth
Naomi Hahner
Barbara Haakenson
Nicole Eckblad
Jon Eckblad
Kolby Kirkeby
Ruth Wieland
Logan Farrington
Dr. Roger Baran
Carol Gianforte
Johana Pederson
Grace Manchester

Jan. / Feb. 2017

Robert Youngs
Julia Pederson
Judy Nielsen
Rondi Jenkins
Jerilyn Smith
Peter Eckblad
Lacey Boehme
Barb Presser
James Strom
Cheryl Green
Kristin Hahner
Mike Patin
Gudbrand Skiaker
William Toutant
Jerome Zewen
Richard Wieland
Sonia Gatzke
Jeanne Murphy
Inge Kromke
Richard Pederson
Diane Palecek
Doris Yarrington
Luella Boehme



DUES REMINDER
January &
February 2017

*Just a reminder to pay your
annual Sons of Norway dues.
If you have already done so,
thank you!*

*Remember, you can renew on
their website
(www.sofn.com), or through
the national office
(membership) at
(800) 945-8851.*

January

Shirley Hirth, Shirley Berntzen

February

Cheryl Miller, Diane Palecek

Congratulations to Shirley Berntzen for becoming a Sons of Norway "Golden Member." A Golden Member has been a SON member for 30 years and is 65 years or better. Shirley joined SON on January 15, 1987 and still regularly attends monthly meetings. Shirley is known for her sweetness... both in her thoughtful personality and her oh-so-delicious delicious desserts.



(More milestones on pg 9)

Meals at meetings - a burden for few or teamwork for many

The board recently asked its members "Since it's so much work, should we continue to serve meals at lodge meetings?" One member replied, "Yes. We like to eat!" Well, we think a lot of members like to eat the delicious, simple meals served at our meetings.

To keep doing that, we need you, me and every one of us to help. We need people to prepare the food (unless it's catered), set up and clean up for each meeting and event. The people who do so are called the social committee. The social committee dissolves as soon as its meeting or event is cleaned up and done.

Every able-bodied member is asked to sign-up for and work on a social committee twice a year. Committees and dates will be published in the newsletter as well as emailed to you. A social "chair" heads the committee and will call you several weeks in advance with your assignment. If you don't get a call, please be proactive and contact them.

We will send a signup sheet around at our next lodge meeting so you can choose the dates you will serve. If you don't sign up, we will assign you dates. If you can't serve on your assigned dates, PLEASE find another member to switch with or to replace you. Contact Michaela Decker, michaeladecker@wi.rr.com, 498-2086 with questions.

Thanks, and here's to teamwork!

Do YOU need a newsletter mailed to your home?

We love sharing our newsletter with our lodge members, and we need the help of those who don't have access to a computer and / or printing. Beginning last September, you will need to help cover the cost of printing and mailing, and the \$10 fee should be given to our treasurer, Sonia Gatzke. Please write a check for this and put "newsletter" in the memo line.

If you DO have email and you believe our lodge does NOT have you in our address book, please notify Mike Palecek or Cheryl Miller.

***Our lodge address is: [REDACTED] .

Sons of Norway Mission Statement

The mission of Sons of Norway is to promote and to preserve the heritage and culture of Norway, to celebrate our relationship with other Nordic Countries and provide quality insurance and financial products to our members.



BOARD MEETINGS

January 7

February 4

March 4

Our Field Representative for Sons of Norway insurance and financial products is Greg Ragan, FIC.

He may be reached at 800-442-4146.

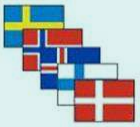


COMING EVENTS....MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

WED. JANUARY 18 Lodge Meeting Dinner: Chili Cook-off	Meal 5:45, Meeting 6:15 Meal Cost: \$4, No charge for chili cook-off contestants	Meet at Racine Moose Lodge Program: 2016 Year in Review
WED FEBRUARY 15 Catered Valentine Dinner	Social: 6:00 Dinner at 6:30 Cost: \$16 adults/\$8 kids 9 & under. MUST register in advance, form attached	Meet at Racine Moose Lodge Special Valentine Program
WED. MARCH 15 Lodge Meeting & Meal	Meal 5:45, Meeting 6:15 Meal Cost: \$4	Meet at Racine Moose Lodge Program: TBD
WED. APRIL 19 Lodge Meeting & Meal	Meal 5:45, Meeting 6:15 Meal Cost: \$4	Meet at Racine Moose Lodge Program: TBD
WED. MAY 17 Lodge Meeting & Meal	Meal 5:45, Meeting 6:15 Meal Cost: \$4	Meet at Racine Moose Lodge Constitution Day!
FRI. June 23 (Tentative) Special Catered Meal	Time, cost and location: TBD	100th Anniversary Celebration! Catered dinner and entertainment, location TBD
SAT. JUNE 24 Midsummer Picnic	Time: 3:00 - 7:00 PM	100th Anniversary celebration! Picnic Location TBD
SUN. July 2 TUE. July 4	Kenosha Independence Day parade Racine Independence Day parade	Ride the Viking ship float! Watch for further details
	NO LODGE MEETING IN JULY	
Sunday, August 13	Time: Noon - 4:00	Annual Potluck Picnic at Baldukas Home
	NO LODGE MEETING IN AUGUST	

ICELAND

The Republic of Iceland is a Nordic island country in the North Atlantic that has a population of about 300,000.



Reykjavik is the capital and their most populated city. If you were to visit, you'd see that the interior is made up of lava fields and sand, mountains and glaciers. The Gulf Stream helps Iceland to have a temperate climate. The settlement of Iceland began about 874 AD when a Norwegian

chieftain, Ingolfr Arnarson, became the first permanent settler, and during the next few centuries, primarily Norwegians immigrated there. This island commonwealth begun by Arnarson lasted until the 13th century, and in 1814 it came under the rule of Denmark. By 1918 they became independent of Denmark and formed a republic in 1944.

Popular Traditional Sport: GLIMA (a form of wrestling)

Popular Cuisine: fish, lamb, and dairy products Culture: The people are considered liberal, and it's one of the top 3 countries for women to live because of the importance of equality.



Sons of Norway Member Profile: Chuck Johnson
By Andy Patch

****MEMBERSHIP****

****MILESTONES****

30 YEARS

Shirley Berntzen

20 YEARS

Deanna Zewen

Tyler Hirth

15 YEARS

Logan Farrington

Ona May Brunsvold

Kolby Kirkeby

10 YEARS

Maxine Brown

Megan Patch

Morgan Patch

Nicholas Baldukas

Susan Skiaker

5 YEARS

Henry Halsted

Mary Ann Halsted

Victor Mitmoen

Ray Snodgrass

Erin Kirkeby

Tannon Kirkeby

Barbara Haakenson



Our January Member Profile is Chuck Johnson. A Racine native, Chuck has been a member of Sons of Norway for the past year, and values the ability through S.O.N. to have contact with other Norwegian "aficionados," learn new Norwegian traditions and customs, and share in the camaraderie of our club.

Chuck is an avid historian and explorer: he and his family have visited Hawaii, Europe and Australia in their travels, and have cruised the Caribbean and Norway as well as a variety of river cruises. The two places he would very much like to see but has not yet been able to travel to are the ancestral homes of his great-great-grandparents, Hattfjelldal, Nordland and Telemark, Norway.

Chuck and his family continue today his childhood ethnic traditions of eating medisterplose at Christmas, and herring for good luck on New Year's Eve. He also enjoys a good Scandinavian beer and (according to his spouse) a nice belt of Aquavit.

While his career has been in engineering and sales management, Chuck states that his alternate dream job would have been as a forester or ecologist. If he could be any character from a movie, he would love to be Yoda, of Star Wars fame, because of the Jedi's deep knowledge and understanding. This thirst for knowledge is reflected in Chuck's most valued aspect of the Sons of Norway experience: the knowledge he gains from other S.O.N. members (as well as all the fun traditions at the annual Christmas Party).

Make sure to stop by and say "Heil!" to Chuck at a future SON meeting, and maybe discuss the merits of the latest Star Wars film! And if you'd like to see yourself or a friend featured as a future Member Profile, be sure to contact Cheryl Miller or Andy Patch.

Nordlyset News
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